Accellion

Healthcare Case Study
Cornell University

File transfer problems.
Solved.

Cornell University
Weill Medical College

Cornell University Weill Medical College's Office of Academic Computing uses Accellion secure file transfer to simplify file transfer between internal and external researchers and users.

Background

Cornell University's Weill Medical College (WMC), situated in the heart of New York City, operates one of the premier medical research institutions in the United States. The College's own research laboratories have been completely renovated in recent years, increasing the laboratory space by more than 25% and enabling more extensive research by medical faculty members.

Comprised of various research centers and institutions dedicated to a wide range of medical studies, Cornell's Weill Medical College has built a reputation for excellence in numerous medical fields. WMC's Office of Academic Computing (OAC) supports more than 5,000 computer users, over 100 servers, and numer-ous clinical, research, and administrative soft-ware applications. It has also created hun-dreds of award winning web sites for both Weill Cornell and New York-Presbyterian Hospital—as well as dozens of critical back-end systems to support the Medical Center's Internet and Intranet resources.

The WMC OAC is also creating innovative computer systems and applications for specific clinical and research projects, including cutting-edge work in genetics and structural biology

Challenges

The faculty members at Cornell University's WMC have a long history of medical research in a variety of fields. Medical researchers need to share information with colleagues and collaborate with research partners around the globe. In addition to WMC's world-class research institutions, WMC operates one of the premier medical universities in the United States.

The nature of medical study and research makes it a collaborative science; students and researchers must work with classmates and colleagues in order to complete classroom and research projects. Researchers often work closely with each other to develop grant pro-posals, compare results, and finalize presenta-tions. While technology has allowed researchers to trade and compare data more efficiently, often times the sheer size of the files sent by medical researchers can pose problems for the parties receiving WMC files.

Cornell employs a number of methods to alleviate the strain large file transfers can place on servers, but external users, outside of WMC's infrastructure, can encounter difficulty receiving data from and transmitting data to researchers at Cornell's WMC. Steven M. Erde, Ph.D., M.D., Senior Director and Chief Security Officer at OAC, recognized the problem presented by the electronic transmission of medical research to external recipients. "Researchers need to transfer a surprisingly large amount of data, and often do so via email, which can pose problems for individuals not operating on the WMC servers," said Erde. "It was important that we identify a method that would allow for the quick transmission of research data to external parties, and would simultaneously permit recipients to transmit data back to WMC researchers."

Solution

Erde began to research ways to resolve the problems presented by large file transfers. Cornell's WMC had implemented a file transfer protocol (FTP) solution that allowed users to transfer large files with external parties via guest accounts. Unfortunately, the FTP solution proved to be far too complex for the average user. In an attempt to up-date the WMC's file transfer system, Erde turned to solutions that were both effective and user-friendly.

The WMC team specifically wanted a web-based solution in order to minimize needed training and ensure ease of use. "The reason that so many people depend on email to transfer information is because everyone knows how to use it," said Erde. "As one of our main ob-jectives in finding a new file transfer solution was to help external users easily send information back to WMC personnel, we had to identi

> **"Accellion's secure file transfer solution was exactly what we needed. Not only can internal users transfer files quickly and easily, but external users can use the solution as well. The issues we dealt with in the past—namely, the inability of non-WMC users to return large files to internal personnel—have been completely eliminated."**
>
> Steven M. Erde, PhD, M.D.
> Senior Director and Chief Security Officer

solution that wouldn't require them to undergo extensive training or have detailed technological knowledge of file transfer systems."

OAC finally settled on Accellion Secure File Transfer, a secure file transfer solution that offers an intuitive interface for internal and external users. The solution provides a web interface for users to send an email with a link to the file in lieu of the actual attachment. Recipients simply click on the embedded link and the file—which can be up to 20 giga-byte in size —is downloaded from the Accellion Appliance.

Specifications

Australia's Special Broadcasting Service	
Deployed since	**2005**
# of Appliances	**1**
Location of Appliances	**U.S.**
# of Users	**4000 (estimated)**
LDAP/AD directory integration	**Yes**
Web Interface	**Customized**
Email plug-in	**Yes**

BENEFITS

- Ability to send and receive large files in real-time
- Eliminate need for end users to use FTP
- Unclogged email servers – file attachments offloaded
- Allow easy external user send back
- Reduced IT support for file transfer
- Ease of use for non-technical users

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